



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono  
United States Attorney  
Mark S. Zuckerman  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(603) 225-1552**

### **HUSBAND AND WIFE ARRESTED FOR PASSPORT FRAUD**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that federal agents arrested Juan Carlos Elias and his wife, Arceli Martinez at their Hampton, New Hampshire home for passport fraud.

Elias was indicted for passport fraud by a federal grand jury sitting in Miami in the Southern District of Florida on September 9, 2003. The indictment charges that Elias applied for a United States passport by providing a false name and a false place of birth. Based on the indictment, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida issued a warrant for Elias' arrest. Last Thursday, Federal agents located Elias at his One Donnas Lane residence in Hampton and arrested him on the warrant.

Elias' wife, Arceli Martinez, was present at the residence at the time of his arrest. Based on previous investigation and upon information learned at the time of the arrest, federal agents also arrested Elias for passport fraud. A complaint filed in federal court in Concord later that day, alleges that Martinez applied for a United States passport using a false name, a false social security number, and a false place of birth. Martinez's passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center located in Portsmouth, which issued her a passport based on the allegedly false information she provided on the application.

If convicted of these offenses Elias and Martinez each face a maximum prison term of ten years and a maximum fine of \$250,000. Elias and Martinez were arraigned last Thursday at the U.S. District Courthouse in Concord. Elias was ordered held without bail pending a detention hearing scheduled for 3:30 PM on September 23, 2003. Martinez was released on personal recognizance bail.

These cases were investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department and the Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman is prosecuting both cases.

Indictments and criminal complaints are only allegations and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.